

COVID-19

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

COUNTY LEADERS NOTE INCREASING COVID TRANSMISSION, POSSIBILITY OF BACKTRACKING IN PHASED REOPENING

Case counts, testing, and other metrics indicate increased transmission of COVID-19 in Snohomish County in recent weeks. Continued increase in transmission could push Snohomish County back into Phase 1.

NEW SHD BLOG POST: WORKING TOWARD PHASE 3 OF A SAFE START FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY

The Snohomish Health District published a new blog post discussing why Snohomish County is not currently in a position to apply for Phase 3. Link to the full blog at right.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

County Leaders Note Increasing COVID Transmission, Possibility of Backtracking in Phased Reopening

During a virtual press conference on Tuesday, June 30, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers was joined by Dr. Chris Spitters, the Health Officer for the Snohomish Health District, and Pat Morris, the Program Director for Volunteers of America Western Washington, to address the county's response to COVID-19.

The Executive and Health Officer talked about case counts, testing and other metrics that indicate increased transmission of COVID-19 in Snohomish County in recent weeks compared to late May and early June.

When asked about the likelihood of having to go back to Phase 1 of the Safe Start Reopening Plan, Executive Somers said, "A week or so ago, I would have thought it was a remote possibility. I don't feel that way anymore. I think going back to Phase 1 is clearly one of the options that could be in front of us."

Pat Morris announced the Community COVID Outreach Counselors Program, a new effort being launched in July in partnership with Snohomish County Human Services and Volunteers of America Western Washington.

"Their primary purpose is to go out to areas in Snohomish County to be able to reach out to people who might be in a food distribution line or they're at an urgent care center or they're at a medical clinic or a resource center," Morris said. "And our team is going to be approaching individuals and asking if there's any more resources that they may need."

Other highlights:

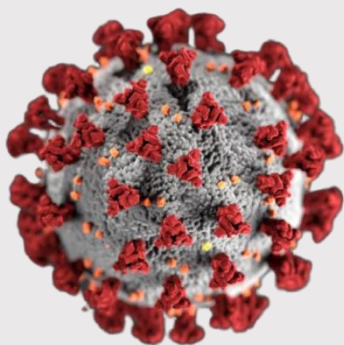
- Dr. Spitters announced that Snohomish County has surpassed 4,000 COVID-19 cases.
- Executive Somers and Dr. Spitters reiterated that the increase in cases is not due to an increase in testing.
- Morris with VOA announced that the Community COVID Outreach Counselors will launch on Monday, July 13.

The video and transcript are available at <https://www.snohd.org/495/COVID-19-General-Information>.

New SHD Blog Post: Working Toward Phase 3 of a Safe Start for Snohomish County

The Snohomish Health District (SHD) published a new blog post discussing why Snohomish County is not currently in a position to apply for Phase 3, indicating that there are specific metrics the county must meet to be considered for approval by the state for Phase 3. These include case rate per 100,000 residents, case investigation and contact tracing, and testing. As of the last two-week reporting period for this data ([June 2 to 16](#)), we are not meeting several of those metrics.

- While our case rate was below the limit of 25 per 100,000 for a few weeks, we have recently seen an increase. For the period of June 2 to 16, the rate went up from about 22 per 100,000 to 23.6 per 100,000. If we look at June 13 to 27, we're at 39.
- Testing levels should be 50 tests per confirmed case. We're at 37 tests per case.



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MARYSVILLE SHRED-A-THON IS BACK! CLEAR OUT THAT PAPERWORK JULY 11

The City of Marysville and community partners are hosting a free Shred-A-Thon event on Saturday, July 11 between 9 a.m. and noon at Marysville City Hall.

CITY OF MLT DISTRIBUTES FACE COVERINGS TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Face coverings were distributed to low-income Mountlake Terrace residents at a drive through / walk up event. The masks were supplied by the State of Washington.

DONATIONS NEEDED AMID SEVERE BLOOD SHORTAGE

Donate blood and help save a life! Link to schedule your donation is at right.

- The goal is to contact 90% of positive cases within 24 hours of receiving a positive COVID-19 test result. We are at 43% in the June 2-16 report.
- As for the percentage of cases responding to daily monitoring, the target is 80% and we're at 68%.

For more information please read SHD's [blog post](#)

Marysville Shred-A-Thon is Back! Clear Out That Paperwork July 11

If your time at home this spring was spent decluttering paperwork, good news! The City of Marysville and community partners are hosting a free Shred-A-Thon event on Saturday, July 11, between 9 a.m. and noon* at Marysville City Hall, 1049 State Ave. (*The event will end at noon or as soon as the shred trucks are full.)

Please do not arrive early. The parking lot will not open before 9 a.m. People who arrive after 9:15 a.m. usually get through the line most quickly.

- You can bring up to six standard file-size boxes for free shredding.
- Marysville Sunrise Rotary will accept clean styrofoam and bubble wrap for recycling.

Please wear a face covering and maintain physical distancing throughout the event in compliance with COVID-19 guidance. Be prepared to unload your own boxes and take them home afterward.

Donations of nonperishable food and cash to Marysville Community Food Bank are gratefully accepted. To minimize physical contact, we prefer that you donate online at www.marysvillefoodbank.com.

For more information please read Marysville's [news release](#).

City of MLT Distributes Face Coverings to Community Members

The City of Mountlake Terrace distributed more than 100 free cloth face masks Monday to low-income Mountlake Terrace residents at a drive through/walk up event. The masks were supplied by the State of Washington.

City Community Relations Director Virginia Olsen said that the city has ordered 1,000 masks for distribution to other residents, and will receive reimbursement for that purchase through federal CARES Act funds.

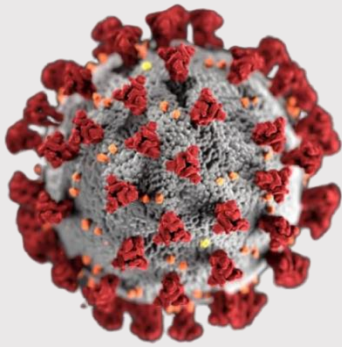
For more information please read MLT's [news release](#).

Donors Needed Amid Severe Blood Shortage

Bloodworks Northwest is bracing for a severe summer blood shortage that could limit local trauma centers' access to blood. So they're ramping up their appeal for blood donations of all blood types. Anyone who donates between now and July 11 will get a [\\$20 grocery gift card](#).

Blood centers throughout the country are reporting inventories falling to their lowest levels since the early stages of the pandemic as the nation's hospitals resume elective surgeries. Locally, Bloodworks is anticipating a shortfall of 6,000 donations through the July Fourth holiday due to low donor turnout. A shortage this large could impact the availability of blood to the hospitals and trauma centers.

Bloodworks has perks for people who donate a pint in July at any Bloodworks Donor Center or Pop-Up location, to help end the shortage. In addition to receiving a \$20 grocery gift card, all donors in July will be automatically entered into the [Pump It Up Sweepstakes](#) for a chance to win a Peloton Bike.



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ALL COMMUNITY TRANSIT FARE COLLECTIONS RESUME JULY 1

Fare collections on Community Transit will be reinstated tomorrow, July 1.

RESIDENTS INVITED TO COMPLETE WASHINGTON STATE FOOD SECURITY SURVEY

UW and WSU, with support from Tacoma Community College, have created the Washington State Food Security Survey to gain a better understanding of how the pandemic has impacted economic security and food access. Link to complete the survey at right.

First-time and repeat donors are urged to make their one-hour donation [appointment](#). There is no inherent risk of getting coronavirus from the donation procedure itself, but Bloodworks follows all CDC and local health guidelines and is taking extra precautions to protect staff and donors, including requiring donation appointments, continuous sanitation, prohibiting guests, and asking donors to bring a mask/face covering to their donation. Bloodworks has posted information addressing questions and concerns for blood donors at bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus. Blood donation takes about an hour from registration to post-donation refreshment.

Information about [who can donate](#) and where, is available at www.bloodworksnw.org.

All Community Transit Fare Collections Resume July 1

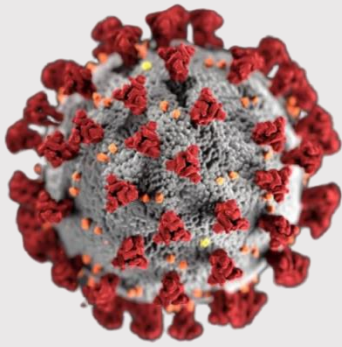
All fare collection will be reinstated July 1st and Community Transit is evaluating the need for more [pop-up events](#) similar to the one they held in May to connect unsheltered people to resources.



Residents Invited to Complete Washington State Food Security Survey

The University of Washington and Washington State University, with support from Tacoma Community College, have created the Washington State Food Security survey to gain a better understanding of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted economic security and food access for Washington state residents. All residents who are 18 years or older are invited to participate.

This survey will ask questions related to health status, food access and economic needs. The goal is to learn more about how Washington residents are handling economic and food disruptions due to the pandemic. This information will help state and community partners to identify needs and support resource allocation for state residents. The survey is both computer and smart phone-capable.



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GOVERNOR HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

Governor Jay Inslee held a press conference in Pasco on Tuesday focusing on the COVID-19 crisis.

COUNTY PHASES, CLIMBING CASES SHOULD MEAN ALTERED SUMMER TRAVEL PLANS FOR MOST WASHINGTONIANS

The Washington State Department of Health is encouraging people in our state to limit summer travel plans to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Upon completing the survey, you will have the option to provide your email address to enter a drawing for a \$50 grocery store gift card (one of 50). Entering the drawing is optional, and you can participate in the survey without providing this information.

Taking part in this study is voluntary. The study does not ask for your name, protected health information, or any identifying information.

The online survey is available in English and Spanish [here](#).

Gov. Inslee Held a Press Conference

Governor Jay Inslee held a press conference on the campus of Columbia Basin College in Pasco to discuss COVID-19. The governor was joined by Secretary of Health John Wiesman and retired Navy Vice Adm. Dr. Raquel Bono, Washington State Director, Pandemic Health Response.

Tune into [TVW](#) to watch the recording.



County Phases, Climbing Cases Should Mean Altered Summer Travel Plans for Most Washingtonians

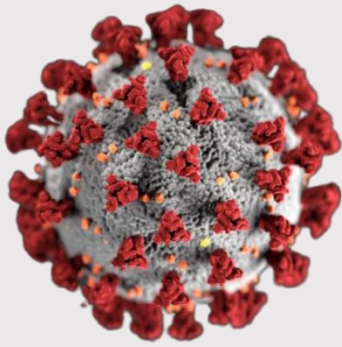
The Washington State Department of Health is encouraging people in our state to limit summer travel plans to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

First, be familiar with the Safe Start plan and how it applies to your county. Governor Jay Inslee's [initiative for a phased Safe Start plan](#) details travel allowances for people who live in counties under different phases. Phases 2 and 3 allow more travel than Phase 1, but that's not a green light for everyone to travel as much as they want.

"We still want people to limit their travel," says State Health Officer Dr. Kathy Lofy. "We have places in Washington with a lot of COVID-19 activity. If there's a lot of cross-state travel this summer, that could spread disease around the state." She says it's understandable that people are ready to get out and enjoy the good weather, "But Public Health is requesting that if they do travel, that they stay closer to home. If people want to travel and it's allowed based on their phase, we don't want people traveling across the state. Stay local."

Just because cross-state travel is strongly discouraged, [outdoor activities](#) are still OK when done with the proper precautions. DOH is sharing tips for enjoying the outdoors safely during a COVID-19 summer:

- Stay six feet away from other people
- Wear a mask when you're around others
- Keep your social circles small
- Wash your hands frequently
- Avoid touching your face
- If you're around other people, being outdoors is better than indoors



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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PUBLISHES STATE TIMELINE OF COVID-19 POLICIES, CASES, AND DEATHS

See the links at right to the new timeline developed by Johns Hopkins showing the major infection control measures and re-openings undertaken by states.

Knowing what phase your county is in is important as many outdoor summer activities, such as pools and waterparks will not be opening before counties advance to phases 3 and 4. As for camping - it is allowed in some phases, but all camping is not equal. Camping with your immediate family is a much safer choice than camping with a large group of people.

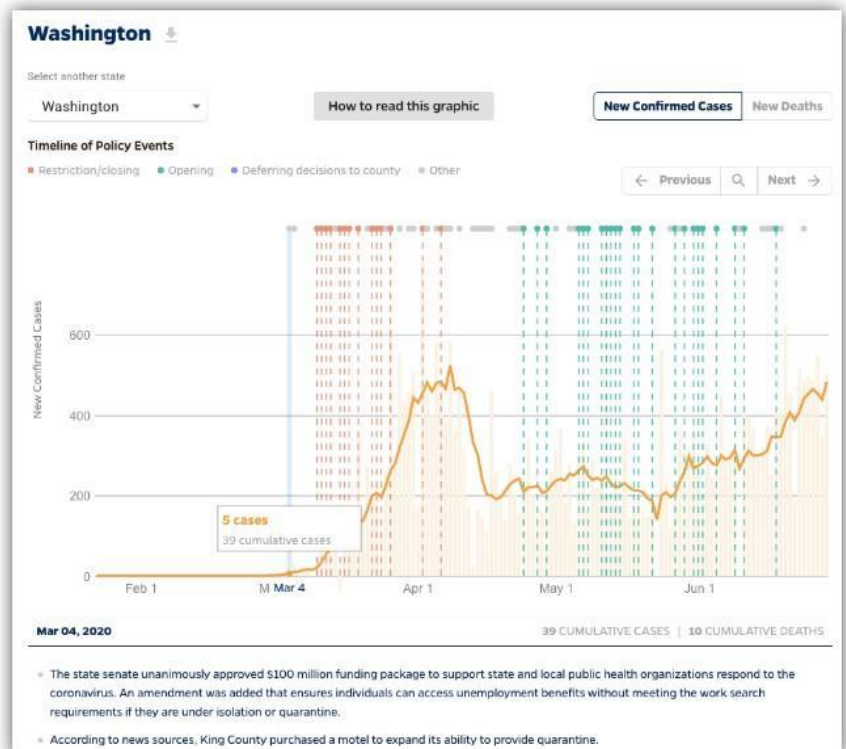
Another concern is traveling to a state with several COVID-19 hotspots, contracting the virus, and then bringing it home. Says Dr. Lofy, "We are seeing a resurgence of COVID-19 activity in many states and increased cases here in Washington. It's incredibly important that everyone does their part to slow down transmission by limiting or changing travel plans."

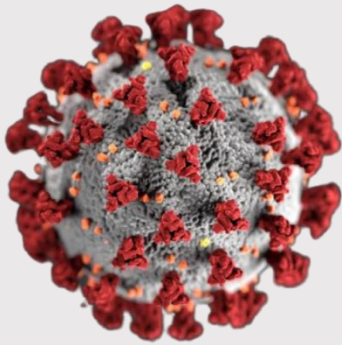
"Travel that includes sightseeing and dining out can increase the spread of the disease. If everyone goes about their lives as normal this summer we will likely see a resurgence of cases and may need to close down businesses again which we don't want to do," said Secretary of Health John Wiesman. "So we want to see people stay close to home."

Johns Hopkins University Publishes State Timeline of COVID-19 Policies, Cases, and Deaths

The Johns Hopkins University timeline shows the major infection control measures and re-openings undertaken by states after the first COVID-19 cases appeared in the United States, alongside the number of new cases and deaths in each state over the same time period.

For more information please review [Washington's timeline](#) and to see current cumulative case and death counts and daily counts for days with no policy events, click [here](#).





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CORONAVIRUS TASKFORCE MEMBER WARNS THE U.S. COULD SEE 100,000 NEW COVID-19 CASES A DAY

Dr. Anthony Fauci and other top federal public health experts testified before the U.S. Senate today to update officials on the COVID-19 response. Link to the testimony at right.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES EMERGENCY HOUSING PROTECTIONS AND RELIEF ACT

The House passed legislation that will help protect Americans from foreclosures, evictions, and unsafe housing conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WARNS OF INACCURATE FLYERS AND POSTINGS REGARDING THE USE OF FACE MASKS AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Department of Justice reiterated that cards and other documents bearing the DOJ seal and claiming that individuals are exempt from face mask requirements are fraudulent.

Coronavirus Taskforce Member Warns the U.S. Could See 100,000 New COVID-19 Cases a Day

Dr. Anthony Fauci and other top federal public health experts testified to the Senate today, June 30, to update elected officials on the COVID-19 response. Dr. Fauci, a member of the Country's Coronavirus Taskforce, warned that the U.S. could see 100,000 new COVID-19 cases a day.

Watch the Senate testimony [here](#).



The New York Times
@nytimes

Breaking News: Dr. Anthony Fauci warned the U.S. could see 100,000 new coronavirus cases a day, citing surges that put "the entire country at risk." "It could get very bad," he said.

Watch his Senate testimony live here. nyti.ms/38fm42h



9:56 AM · Jun 30, 2020 · SocialFlow

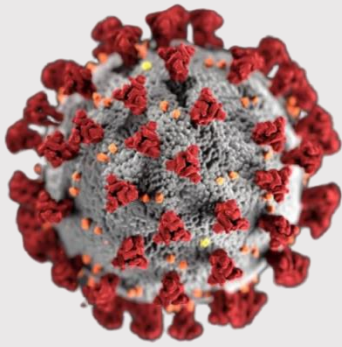
House of Representatives Passes Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act

On Monday, June 29, the House passed legislation that will help protect Americans from foreclosures, evictions, and unsafe housing conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information please read [H.R. 7301](#).

The Department of Justice Warns of Inaccurate Flyers and Postings Regarding the Use of Face Masks and the Americans with Disabilities Act

Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Eric Dreiband reiterated that cards and other documents bearing the Department of Justice seal and claiming that individuals are exempt from face mask requirements are fraudulent.



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NEW STUDY: FINDING ANTIBODIES THAT NEUTRALIZE COVID-19

A NIH-funded study published in the journal Nature found that most people do produce antibodies that can effectively neutralize COVID-19. The catch: 99% of the study's participants did not make enough neutralizing antibodies to mount an ideal immune response.

HHS ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO FIGHT COVID-19 IN RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has selected Morehouse School of Medicine as the recipient of \$40 million to fight COVID-19 in racial and ethnic minority, rural, and socially vulnerable communities.

CDC LAUNCHES NEW WEBPAGE: FOOD & COVID-19

CDC has launched a new webpage to address food and COVID-19.

Inaccurate flyers or other postings have been circulating on the web and via social media channels regarding the use of face masks and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these notices included use of the Department of Justice seal and ADA phone number.

As the Department has stated in a previous [alert](#), the Department did not issue and does not endorse them in any way. The public should not rely on the information contained in these postings.

The ADA does not provide a blanket exemption to people with disabilities from complying with legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operations.

The public can visit [ADA.gov](https://www.ada.gov) or call the ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (voice) and 800-514-0383 (TTY) for more information.

For more information please read DOJ's [news release](#).

New Study: Finding Antibodies that Neutralize COVID-19

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded a study of nearly 150 people who recovered from COVID-19. The study, published in the journal Nature, shows that most people, in fact, do produce antibodies that can effectively neutralize COVID-19. But there is a catch: 99% of the study's participants didn't make enough neutralizing antibodies to mount an ideal immune response.

The good news is that when researchers looked at individuals who mounted a strong immune response, they were able to identify three antibodies that were extremely effective at neutralizing COVID-19. By mass-producing copies of these antibodies as so-called [monoclonal antibodies](#), the researchers can now better evaluate their potential as treatments to help people who don't make strongly neutralizing antibodies, or not enough of them.

For more information please read about the [study](#).

HHS Announces Partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine to Fight COVID-19 in Racial and Ethnic Minority and Vulnerable Communities

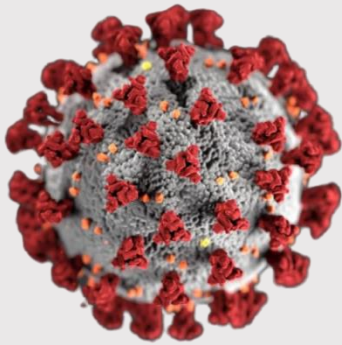
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) announced the selection of the Morehouse School of Medicine as the awardee for a new \$40 million initiative to fight COVID-19 in racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities.

For more information please read HHS' [news release](#).

CDC Launches New Webpage: Food & COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched a new webpage to address food and COVID-19. The CDC advises that coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are thought to spread mostly [person-to-person](#) through respiratory droplets when someone coughs, sneezes, or talks. It is possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object, including food or food packaging, that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the [virus spreads](#). Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that handling food or consuming food is associated with COVID-19.

For more information about food and COVID-19 please visit the CDC's [webpage](#).



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FISHING CREWS NOW QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF

Fishers now qualify for federal COVID-19 relief. Details at right.

REMINDER: TAXPAYERS SHOULD FILE BY JULY 15 TAX DEADLINE; AUTOMATIC EXTENSION TO OCT. 15 AVAILABLE

The federal tax filing and payment deadline of July 15 will not be postponed.

MINIMIZING THE EFFECTS OF WILDFIRE SMOKE DURING COVID-19

The U.S. Fire Administration encourages communities to take actionable steps to minimize the respiratory effects of wildfire smoke.

EU AGREES TO START LIFTING TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF SOME COUNTRIES, U.S. EXCLUDED

The Council of the European Union has adopted a recommendation on the gradual lifting of the temporary travel restrictions into the EU. Non-essential travel into the EU from the United States will still be restricted.

Fishing Crews Now Qualify for Federal COVID-19 Relief

People in the fishing industry have been contending with poor markets as restaurants closed or reduced service to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The federal rule change was published June 25, after captains discovered crew members, who typically receive pay in shares of the catch, could not be included in the first federal relief aid program, [The Seattle Times reported](#).

For more information please read the [federal rule change](#).

Reminder: Taxpayers Should File by July 15 Tax Deadline; Automatic Extension to Oct. 15 Available

The Department of the Treasury and IRS announced on Monday, June 29 that the tax filing and payment deadline of July 15 will not be postponed. Individual taxpayers unable to meet the July 15 due date can request an automatic extension of time to file until Oct. 15.

For more information please read the IRS' [news release](#).

Minimizing the Effects of Wildfire Smoke During COVID-19

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), under FEMA, encourages communities to take actionable steps to minimize the respiratory effects of wildfire smoke. Wildfire smoke occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic can increase susceptibility to the virus and other infections by causing irritation to the respiratory system, resulting in altered immune function. Populations vulnerable to smoke, including those with compromised immune systems, children under 18, pregnant women, adults 65 and over, and outdoor workers need to be aware of this risk.

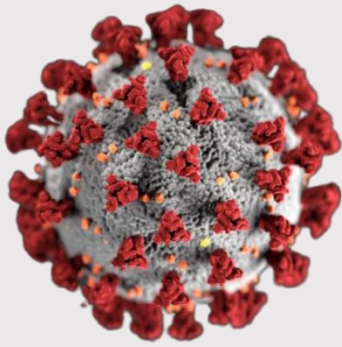
For more information please read USFA's information about [wildfire smoke](#).

EU Agrees to Start Lifting Travel Restrictions for Residents of Some Countries, U.S. Excluded

The Council of the European Union today adopted a recommendation on the gradual lifting of the temporary restrictions on non-essential travel into the EU. Travel restrictions should be lifted for countries listed in the recommendation, with this list being reviewed and, as the case may be, updated every two weeks.

Based on the criteria and conditions set out in the recommendation, as from 1 July member states should start lifting the travel restrictions at the external borders for residents of the following countries:

- Algeria
- Australia
- Canada
- Georgia
- Japan
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- New Zealand
- Rwanda
- Serbia
- South Korea
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Uruguay
- China, subject to confirmation of reciprocity



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CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help. For information to be texted to you, text **Coronavirus** to **211-211**.

The United States is excluded from this list at this time.

[Read the full news release.](#)

Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of June 30, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:30 p.m.
Confirmed	3,537
Probable	482
Deaths	170

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:30 p.m.
Arlington	148 (129 recovered)
Bothell*	260 (213 recovered)
Brier	23 (22 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	395 (332 recovered)
Everett	1,191 (957 recovered)
Gold Bar	<5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	31 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	156 (124 recovered)
Lynnwood	709 (640 recovered)
Marysville	357 (245 recovered)
Mill Creek	62 (53 recovered)
Monroe	99 (87 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	130 (114 recovered)
Mukilteo	75 (71 recovered)
Snohomish	187 (160 recovered)
Stanwood	128 (104 recovered)
Sultan	11 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	27 (23 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	13 (11 recovered)
Woodway	8 (8 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. *Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.